

**OPINION 2310 (Case 3547)*****Cryptotermes dudleyi* Banks, 1918 (Insecta, Isoptera): precedence given over *Calotermes havilandi parasita* Wasmann, 1910 (currently *Cryptotermes parasita*)**

**Abstract.** The Commission has conserved the usage of the specific name *Cryptotermes dudleyi* Banks, 1918 for an important economic termite pest species by giving the specific name *dudleyi* precedence over *parasita* whenever the two are considered to be synonyms.

**Keywords.** Nomenclature; taxonomy; Isoptera; KALOTERMITIDAE; *Cryptotermes*; *Cryptotermes dudleyi*; *Cryptotermes parasita*; termites; worldwide.

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**Ruling**

- (1) Under the plenary power, the Commission has given the name *dudleyi* Banks, 1918, as published in the binomen *Cryptotermes dudleyi*, precedence over the name *parasita* Wasmann, 1910, as published in the trinomen *Calotermes havilandi parasita*, whenever the two are considered to be synonyms.
- (2) The name *parasita* Wasmann, 1910, as published in the trinomen *Calotermes havilandi parasita*, is hereby placed on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology with the endorsement that it is not to be given priority over the name *dudleyi* Banks, 1918, as published in the binomen *Cryptotermes dudleyi*, whenever the two are considered to be synonyms.
- (3) The entry on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology for the name *dudleyi* Banks, 1918, as published in the binomen *Cryptotermes dudleyi*, is hereby amended to record the endorsement that it is to be given precedence over the name *parasita* Wasmann, 1910, as published in the trinomen *Calotermes havilandi parasita*, whenever the two are considered to be synonyms.

**History of Case 3547**

An application to conserve the usage of the specific name *Cryptotermes dudleyi* Banks, 1918 for an important economic termite pest species, by giving the specific name *dudleyi* precedence over *parasita* whenever the two are considered to be synonyms, was received from Kumar Krishna (*American Museum of Natural History, New York, NY, U.S.A.*) and Michael S. Engel (*Natural History Museum, University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS, U.S.A., and American Museum of Natural History, New York, NY, U.S.A.*), on 11 December 2010. After correspondence the case was published in BZN 68: 109–112 (2011). The title, abstract and keywords of the case were published on the Commission's website. No comments were received on this case.

**Decision of the Commission**

On 1 June 2012 the members of the Commission were invited to vote on the proposals published in BZN 68: 110–111. At the close of the voting period on 1 September 2012 the votes were as follows:

Affirmative votes – 18: Ballerio, Bogutskaya, Brothers, Fautin, Grygier, Halliday, Harvey, Krell, Kottelat, Kullander, Lamas, Minelli, Pape, Rosenberg, Winston, Yanega, Zhang and Zhou.

Negative votes – 6: Alonso-Zarazaga, Bouchet, Kojima, Lim, Štys and van Tol. Ng, Patterson and Pyle were on leave of absence.

Voting AGAINST, Alonso-Zarazaga explained that he thought the origin of the problem was the bad nomenclatural procedure used by Bacchus (1987) in establishing the synonymy between *C. parasita* and *C. dudleyi*. Therefore, he did not consider the uses before that date an argument against priority that Bacchus should have respected. Uses after 1987 were biased because of Bacchus's selection contrary to the Principle of Priority and very recent acts clearly contrary to the Code should be corrected as soon as possible, before they became widespread. Also voting AGAINST, Bouchet said that clearly the name *Cryptotermes* (or *Calotermes*) *parasita* had not been ignored by all systematists, although it did appear to have been neglected by some. The body of literature on *Cryptotermes dudleyi* was not, in his opinion, as overwhelming as implied in the application. He felt that priority should apply. He was convinced that pest control literature would produce handbooks and identification manuals that would rapidly propagate the revised nomenclature. Also voting AGAINST, Kojima explained that, in his view, a better and more reasonable solution would be to set aside the lectotype designation of *parasita* by Bacchus (1987) and designate a syntype from Europa Island as the lectotype of *parasita*. Also voting AGAINST, Štys said he thought the application was premature. Nobody seemed to check whether the opinion by Bacchus (1987) on the subjective synonymy between *Cryptotermes dudleyi* and *Calotermes havilandi parasita* was correct, and the former name was not actually threatened. Moreover, he found it inappropriate to call any name 'obscure' just because of being infrequently cited and applying to a limited geographical area.

### Original references

The following are the original references to the names placed on Official Lists and Indexes by the ruling given in the present Opinion:

*dudleyi*, *Cryptotermes*, Banks, 1918, *Bulletin of the American Museum of Natural History*, 38(17): 660.

*parasita*, *Calotermes havilandi*, Wasmann, 1910, *Reise in Oskafrika in den Jahren 1903–1905: Mit Mitteln der Hermann und Elise geb. Heckmann Wentzel-Stiftung Ausgeführt. Wissenschaftliche Ergebnisse. Band III. Systematische Arbeiten. Heft II*. E. Schweizerbart'sche Verlag, Stuttgart, p. 120.